(d) whether Government propose to give allocation to Maharashtra on the basis of the present projected population; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (e) Under the present policy of partial control, the monthly allocation of levy sugar to most of the States/Union Territories, including Maharashtra, is being made on an uniform norm of ensuring 425 gms. per capita availability as per the population figures of 1991 censes with effect from 1.1.1996. However, allocation of levy sugar at higher rates is being allowed to some States/Union Territories due to special circumstances prevailing therein. In the month of December, 1996 an additional 10% levy sugar quota has been allowed to all the States/Union Territories including the State of Maharashtra.

Functioning of Tacs

1707. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tribal Advisory Councils have been duly constituted in each State having Scheduled areas and whether they are actually functioning;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) the mechanism by which the Central Government reviews and monitors and gives guidance to the activities of the TAC; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to see that the meetings of the TACs are regularly held and their decisions properly implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Tribes Advisory Concils (TAC) have been set up in each state having Scheduled Areas, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan. However meetings of the TACs are not being held regularly in many cases.

(c) The Government have issued guidelines to the State Governments in this regard. Issues regarding afficient functioning of TACs are also discussed in high level meetings/conference such as Conference of State Ministers/Secretaries of Tribal Welfare.

(d) The Government has decided to set up a Commission under Art. 339(1) of the Constitution in which one of the terms of reference is to review the functioning of TACs.

Illegal production of items reserved for small scale sector

1708. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to promote small scale sector, a number of items have been reserved exclusively for this sector;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that certain items are being illegally produced by multi-national companies and supplied to certain Government Army Organisations;

(c) if so, whether such organisations procuring illegally produced items will be asked to discontinue this practice forthwith;

(d) whether action will be taken against the companies which are engaged in manufacturing products exclusively reserved for small scale industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. At present, 836 items are reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector.

(b) and (c) As per policy, no medium/ large scale undertakings including multi-national companies are allowed to venture into the manufacture of items reserved for small scale sector except under 75% export obligation. In case, these undertakings had been manufacturing reserved items prior to the date of reservation, they can continue to do so after obtaining a Carry-On-Business (COB) Licence from the Government. Canteen Stores Department of Ministry of Defence procures items from manufacturers/authorised sole selling agents for sale to its clientele on the basis of their requirements, popularity and sales potential. The items are approved for introduction by Board of Administration which comprises senior officers of three services, viz. Army, Navy and Air Force. Besides, the items are introduced only if the same are established in the market. No preference is given to any category of suppliers, viz., Multi-national companies, large, medium, SSI etc.

(d) and (e) Violations of the provisions under the Reservation Policy is punishable udner Section 24 of Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. In case of any violation of the provisions of the Reservation, the concerned administrative Ministry/Department initiates action against the violating firm.

Large scale import of steel from CIS Countries

1709. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of large scale import of steel from CIS countries as a result of lowering down of import duty on steel;

(b) if so, the details of the import of steel during the last six months; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the domestic producers of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) As per available information, about 4.75 lakh tonnes of steel was imported during April-July, 1996, including 0.25 lakh tonnes from CIS countries. The imports from the CIS countreis mainly comprised of Hot Rolled Coils/Skelp/Strips, Cold Rolled Coils Sheets, Tin Plates, Electrical Sheets and different forms of semi-finished steel.

(c) As per the existing policy, import of steel is freely allowed. However, provision exists in the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the rules framed thereunder to investigate cases of dumping and levy an additional customs duty, if it is established that such dumping causes material injury to the domestic industry. The Designated Authority under the aforesaid Act has not, as on 5.12.1996, received any petition for imposition of Anti-Dumping Duties on any steel product.

Request from Gujarat Government for Allocation of 70,000 MTs of wheat

1710. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received from Gujarat State Government any request for the allocation of 70,000 MTs of wheat; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC